

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2256

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 2614

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, SF

SUBJECT: END USER CHECK: EQUIPMENT FOR SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE

REFERENCE: STATE 159438

1. EMBOFF HAD DISCUSSION WITH BRIGADIER L.P.NEETHLING, CHIEF OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY, ON 14 JULY CONCERNING THEIR USE OF FINNIGAN CORP. MODEL 6100 INTERACTIVE CONTROL AND GRAPHIC OUTPUT SYSTEM. NEETHLING, WHO WAS VERY HELPFUL AND FORTHCOMING, STATED THAT MODEL 6100 SYSTEM TO BE USED BY FORENSIC LAB ONLY FOR TOXICOLOGIC WORK RELATED TO DETECTION OF DRUGS IN BODY FLUIDS IN DRUG INVESTIGATIONS AND DETECTION OF POISONS IN MURDER OR ATTEMPTED MURDER CASES. HE ADDED THAT FORENSIC LAB IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF SIMILAR SYSTEM MADE BY HEWLETT-PACKARD CO. AND HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO BUY FINNIGAR OR HEWLETT-PACKARD SYSTEM. BOTH SYSTEMS ARE BASICALLY MADE UP OF GAS CHROMATOGRAPH, WHICH SEPARATES AND COLLECTS THE VARIOUS CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS OF SUBSTANCE UNDER ANALYSIS, A MASS SPECTROMETER, WHICH ANALYZES AND MAKES A CHART OF EACH OF THE SEPARATED CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS, AND A DATA BANK, WHICH IS A SMALL COMPUTER CONTAINING A LIBRARY OF MASS SPECTROMETER CHARTS ON THOUSANDS OF COMPOUNDS. THE CHARTS OF THE UNKNOWN COMPOUND OR COMPOUNDS UNDER ANALYSIS ARE COMPARED TO CHARTS OF KNOWN CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS IN THE DATA BANK IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY THE UNKNOWN COMPOUND(S). THE RESULTS ARE USED IN GIVING SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE IN DRUG AND MURDER TRIALS AS WELL

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AS IN INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS.

2. NEETHLING ALSO STATED THAT THIS ONLY USE FORENSIC LAB PLANNED FOR MODEL 6100 SYSTEM OR HEWLETT-PACKARD SYSTEM, AND THAT FORENSIC LAB NOT INVOLVED IN ANY SCIENTIFIC OR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH WHATSOEVER. HE ADDED THAT ONLY POSSIBLE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FORENSIC LAB MIGHT PUT SYSTEM TO IS ESTABLISHING METHOD OF ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE IF SOMEONE HAS SMOKED MARIJUANA AND AMOUNT SMOKED. SUCH AN ANALYSIS HAS NOT AS YET BEEN PERFECTED IN U.S. OR BRITAIN ACCORDING TO NEETHLING. HE COMMENTED THAT SOUTH AFRICAN COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH CURRENTLY HAS ONE HEWLETT-PACKARD CO. INTERACTIVE CONTROL AND GRAPHIC OUTPUT SYSTEM PURCHASE IN OCTOBER 1974 AND ONE FINNIGAN CORP. MODEL 6100 SYSTEM PURCHASED IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH OF 1975, BOTH OF WHICH USED PURELY FOR RESEARCH.

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